AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 8. Cancel

9. (Currently Amended) A method for managing a multicast session in a communication system, comprising the steps of:

generating a first multicast flow identifier that is used to select one of many available multicast session information flows;

generating a second multicast flow identifier, smaller than the first multicast flow identifier, that is used to select one of many available multicast session information flows; ~~and~~

establishing an inter-relationship between the first multicast flow identifier and the second multicast flow identifier[[.]];

generating a set of radio parameters to establish a communication channel to support a selected multicast session information flow;

mapping the second multicast flow identifier to the set of radio parameters;

sending the mapping of the second multicast flow identifier to the set of radio parameters to a mobile station (MS) requesting receipt of the selected multicast session information flow; and

sending the second multicast flow identifier to the MS.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the first multicast flow identifier is globally unique and the second multicast flow identifier is locally unique.

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12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9[[11]], wherein a router generates the first multicast flow identifier and the second multicast flow identifier, and establishes their inter-relationship, and the BS ~~a base station (BS)~~ generates the set of radio parameters.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9[[12]], further comprising the step ~~steps~~ of:

storing the inter-relationship between the first multicast flow identifier and the second multicast flow identifier in the BS.[[;]]

~~sending the mapping of the second multicast flow identifier to the set of radio parameters to a mobile station (MS) requesting receipt of the selected multicast session information flow; and~~

~~sending the second multicast flow identifier to the MS.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9[[13]], wherein the first multicast flow identifier determines that only a single transmission of the selected multicast session information flow is sent over a radio broadcast channel even though multiple routers have respective MSs requesting the same selected multicast session information flow.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the second multicast flow identifier determines that the MS continues to receive the selected multicast session information flow after transitioning from a connection with a first BS to a connection with a second BS where the selected multicast session information flow is routed through the same router.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the routers are packet data serving nodes (PDSNs) and the multicast session is provided using internet protocol (IP).

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9[[13]], further comprising the step of:

sending multicast filter information from the MS to the router using a multi-channel flow treatment protocol (MCFTP) message, wherein multicast filter information is used to generate the first multicast flow identifier.

18. (Currently Amended) A communication system for managing a multicast session, comprising:

a router configured to generate a first multicast flow identifier that is used to select one of many available multicast session information flows and to generate a second multicast flow identifier, smaller than the first multicast flow identifier, that is used to select one of many available multicast session information flows[[.]], wherein the router is further configured to establish an inter-relationship between the first multicast flow identifier and the second multicast flow identifier;

a base station (BS) configured to generate a set of radio parameters to establish a communication channel to support a select multicast session information flow and to map the second multicast flow identifier to the set of radio parameters; and

wherein the BS is configured to send the mapping of the second multicast flow identifier to the set of radio parameters to a mobile station (MS), and the router is configured to send the second multicast flow identifier to the MS in a multi-channel flow treatment protocol (MCFTP) statement

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20. (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the first multicast flow identifier is globally unique and the second multicast flow identifier is locally unique.

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22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18[[21]] wherein the system is configured to store the inter-relationship between the first multicast flow identifier and the second multicast flow identifier in the BS.

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24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18[[23]], wherein the first multicast flow identifier determines that only a single transmission of the multicast flow is sent over a radio broadcast channel even though multiple routers have respective MSs requesting the same selected multicast session information flow.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the second multicast flow identifier determines that the MS continues to receive the selected multicast session information flow after transitioning from a connection with a first BS to a connection with a second BS where the selected multicast session information flow is routed through the same router.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the routers are packet data serving nodes (PDSNs) and the multicast session is provided using internet protocol (IP).

27. (Previously Presented) An internet protocol (IP) multicast service, comprising:

a router configured to generate a first multicast flow identifier that is used to select one of many available multicast session information flows and generate a second multicast flow identifier, smaller than the first multicast flow identifier, that is used to select one of many available multicast session information flows;

a base station (BS) coupled to the router, the BS stores an inter-relationship between the first multicast flow identifier and the second multicast flow identifier and generates a set of radio parameters to establish a communication channel to support a selected multicast session information flow and maps the second multicast flow identifier to the set of radio parameters; and

a mobile station (MS) coupled to the base station that selects one of the many available multicast session information flows, receives the second multicast flow identifier from the router, receives the radio parameters from the BS, and tunes into the selected multicast session information flow using the radio parameters.

28. (Previously Presented) The service of claim 27, wherein the router establishes an inter-relationship between the first multicast flow identifier and the second multicast flow identifier.

29. (Original) The service of claim 28, wherein the first multicast flow identifier is globally unique and the second multicast flow identifier is locally unique.

30. (Previously Presented) The service of claim 29, wherein the BS sends the mapping of the second multicast flow identifier to the set of radio parameters to the MS, and the router sends the second multicast flow identifier to the MS in a multi-channel flow treatment protocol (MCFTP) statement.

31. (Previously Presented) The service of claim 30, wherein the first multicast flow identifier determines that only a single transmission of the selected multicast session information flow is sent over a radio broadcast channel even though multiple routers have respective MSs requesting the same selected multicast session information flow.

32. (Previously Presented) The service of claim 31, wherein the second multicast flow identifier determines that the MS continues to receive the selected multicast session information flow after transitioning from a connection with a first BS to a connection with a second BS where the selected multicast session information flow is routed through the same router.

33. (Original) The service of claim 32, wherein the routers are packet data serving nodes (PDSNs).

34. (Original) The service of claim 27, wherein the IP multicast service is provided by the BS over a radio broadcast channel in response to a request from the MS.

35. (Original) The service of claim 27, wherein the IP multicast service is provided by a BS over a dedicated radio channel in response to a request from the MS.

36. (Original) The service of claim 27, wherein the IP multicast service is provided by the BS over a radio broadcast channel even though the MS requests a dedicated radio channel.

37. (Original) The service of claim 27, wherein the IP multicast service is provided by the BS over a dedicated radio channel even though the MS requests a broadcast radio channel.

38. (Currently Amended) A communication system for managing a multicast session, comprising:

a router configured to generate a first multicast flow identifier that is globally unique and used to select one of many available multicast session information flows; and

a base station (BS) that generates a set of radio parameters to establish a communication channel and maps the first multicast flow identifier to the set of radio parameters, wherein the BS sends the mapping of the first multicast flow identifier to the set of radio parameters to a mobile station (MS), and the router sends the first multicast flow identifier to the MS in a multi-channel flow treatment protocol (MCFTP) statement.

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41. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 38[[40]], wherein router receives multicast filter information in a MCFTP message sent from the MS, and the multicast filter information is used to generate the first multicast flow identifier.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 38, wherein the router generates a locally unique second multicast flow identifier, smaller than the first multicast flow identifier, that is used to select one of many available multicast session information flows and establishes an inter-relationship between the first multicast flow identifier and the second multicast flow identifier.

43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 42, wherein the system is configured to store the inter-relationship between the first multicast flow identifier and the second multicast flow identifier in the BS.

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 42, wherein the router sends the second multicast flow identifier to the MS in a multi-channel flow treatment protocol (MCFTP) statement.